

Message Text

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21

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CU-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /099 W

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O R 210837Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4991

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION UN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 6097

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON AORG UNESCO PINS MY

SUBJ: UNESCO 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE AND UN CONVENTION ON PREVEN-
TION AND PUNISHMENT OF CRIMES AGAINST INTERNATIONALLY
PROTECTED PERSONS, INCLUDING DIPLOMATIC AGENTS

REF: (A) STATE 157992, (B) STATE 224244, (C) STATE 233519,
(D) STATE 256207, (E) STATE 257992, (F) STATE 257811,
(G) KUALA LUMPUR 6027, (H) STATE 259170

1. SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION: EMBOFF MET WITH MFA PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT
SECRETARY LOOI CHEOK HUN OCT 21 TO DISCUSS MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS,
PARTICULARLY ISSUES OF INTEREST TO US AT UNESCO 19TH GENERAL
CONFERENCE. EMBOFF ALSO USED OCCASION TO INFORM HIM OF PRESIDENT'S
SIGNING OF LEGISLATION AND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS DEALING WITH
PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT OF CRIMES AGAINST INTERNATIONALLY
PROTECTED PERSONS AND TO REITERATE OUR HOPE THAT MALAYSIA WILL
CONSIDER ON URGENT BASIS ASSOCIATING ITSELF WITH THE UN CONVENTION
ON THIS SUBJECT (PER REF D). LOOI LISTENED CAREFULLY AND SAID
THAT GOM WOULD TAKE OUR VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT IN FORMULATING
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SPECIFIC POSITIONS, NOTING THAT IN GENERAL GOM'S ACTIONS

WOULD DERIVE FROM ITS BASIC (I.E., PRO-MODERATE ARABS)
POLICY ORIENTATION ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES. END SUMMARY/
INTRODUCTION.

2. EMBOFF REITERATED US CONCERNS RE BLATANTLY POLITICAL ACTS
TAKEN AT 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE IN 1974 THAT HAD
PROMPTED CONGRESSIONAL CUTOFF OF US FUNDS FOR UNESCO AND
OUR HOPE THAT STEPS COULD BE TAKEN AT 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE
TO NULLIFY SOME OF THESE HARMFUL MEASURES. ONE
POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE APPROVAL OF ISRAEL'S REQUEST
FOR ASSIGNMENT TO THE EUROPEAN REGION. USG THUS HOPES
MALAYSIA WILL SUPPORT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION THAT
THE GENERAL CONFERENCE BASE ITS ASSIGNMENT OF MEMBER STATES
TO GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS ON THE WISHES OF THE MEMBERS CONCERNED
AND THAT WHEN THIS PROCEDURE HAS BEEN ADOPTED, THE
MALAYSIAN DELEGATION WILL SUPPORT THE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS
MADE BY THE MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS REGIONS. APPROVAL OF THIS PRO-
CEDURE WOULD CONSTITUTE AN ESSENTIAL STEP TOWARD RE-ESTABLISHING
A VIABLE BASIS FOR A FULL AND ACTIVE US PRESENCE IN UNESCO,
INCLUDING PAYMENT OF ASSESSMENTS, EMBOFF REMARKED. LOOI
INDICATED THAT THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION WOULD BE INCLINED
TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF AN EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION BUT WOULD
NOT RPT NOT GIVE ANY COMMITMENT ON THIS PARTICULAR MATTER
OTHER THAN TO PROMISE THAT GOM WOULD GIVE SYMPATHETIC
CONSIDERATION TO OUR CONCERNS.

3. ON THE SUBJECT OF DEFERRING CONSIDERATION OF THE
DRAFT DECLARATION ON MASS MEDIA (REF E), EMBOFF CITED
FACT THAT A NUMBER OF PROVISIONS IN THE PRESENT DRAFT
DECLARATION RUN COUNTER TO VALUES FUNDAMENTAL TO MANY
UNESCO MEMBERS. A VOTE ON THIS DRAFT SHOULD BE DEFERRED
IN ORDER TO ALLOW MORE TIME TO ARRIVE AT A TEXT THAT IS
MORE WIDELY SUPPORTED BY UNESCO'S MEMBERS, PREFERABLY
BY CONSENSUS. IT SHOULD REPRESENT A GENUINE AGREEMENT
AMONG UNESCO'S MEMBERS ON ITS PRINCIPLES AND
CONCEPTS; THE PRESENT DRAFT DOES NOT. FOR THESE REASONS
WE HOPE THAT THE GOM DELEGATION WILL SUPPORT DEFERRAL OF A
VOTE ON THIS DRAFT. LOOI REPLIED THAT MALAYSIA WAS VERY
INTERESTED IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ASPECTS OF MASS MEDIA
DECLARATION AND WHEN INFORMED THAT PRESENT DRAFT DID NOT
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SEEM RELEVANT TO THIS CONSIDERATION HE COMMENTED THAT IF
SUCH WAS THE CASE THERE WOULD BE "NO RPT NO PROBLEM" IN
MALAYSIAN DELEGATION SUPPORTING DEFERRAL.

4. EMBOFF ALSO RAISED SUBJECT OF PRESIDENT'S RECENT SIGNING
OF LEGISLATION AND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS RELATING TO
PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT OF CRIMES AGAINST INTERNATIONALLY
PROTECTED PERSONS, INCLUDING PROTECTED PERSONS. HE EXPRESSED

USG'S HOPE THAT MALAYSIA, AS A COUNTRY WHICH HAS EXPERIENCED PROBLEM OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AGAINST DIPLOMATIC FACILITIES ON ITS SOIL, WILL GIVE URGENT CONSIDERATION TO ASSOCIATING ITSELF AS A PARTY TO THE UN CONVENTION ON THIS SUBJECT. EMBOFF NOTED THAT EMBASSY WAS SENDING OVER OFFICIAL NOTE TO MFA LATER IN DAY, TO WHICH LOOI REPLIED HE WOULD ASSURE IT WAS DIRECTED TO APPROPRIATE GOM AGENCIES FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION. HE ADDED THAT MALAYSIA PROCEEDED VERY CAUTIOUSLY IN CONSIDERING PROPOSALS SUCH AS THAT BY WEST GERMANS FOR CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM (STATE 196812, KUALA LUMPUR 4609) TO DETERMINE WHETHER SUCH A PROPOSAL IS BROADLY SUPPORTED IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, BEFORE IT WOULD COMMIT ITSELF.

5. FYI. AT TIME REF G WAS DRAFTED, EMBASSY MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS OFFICER WAS AWAY INTERVIEWING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ON MALAYSIA'S EAST COAST; ON HIS RETURN WE LEARNED THAT INDEED HE HAD DISCUSSED UNESCO ISSUES OUTLINED STATE 224244 WITH LOOI ON SEPT 13. END FYI.

6. COMMENT. AS EXPECTED, LOOI, THE PRINCIPAL WORKING LEVEL MFA OFFICIAL INVOLVED IN MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS, WAS NONCOMMITTAL. HE CITED THAT NO ONE FROM MFA WOULD BE ATTENDING THE 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE; RATHER SEVERAL OFFICIALS FROM THE EDUCATION MINISTRY, PLUS SOMEONE DETAILED FROM THEIR PARIS MISSION OR NAIROBI TRADE OFFICE, WOULD COMPRISE THE GOM DELEGATION. GOM, HOWEVER, GENERALLY SIDES WITH ISLAMIC NATIONS AND ARAB MODERATES ON MIDDLE EAST RELATED QUESTIONS; THUS IN OUR REPRESENTATIONS WE HAVE DOWNPLAYED ISRAELI ANGLE AND HIGHLIGHTED PROCEDURAL ASPECTS AND GENERAL PRECEPTS WE BELIEVE SHOULD GOVERN OPERATIONS OF UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES SUCH AS UNESCO. WILL ADVISE OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO GOM ATTITUDES OR COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION
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